

Influenza Watch – San Diego County

Influenza Surveillance Weekly Update

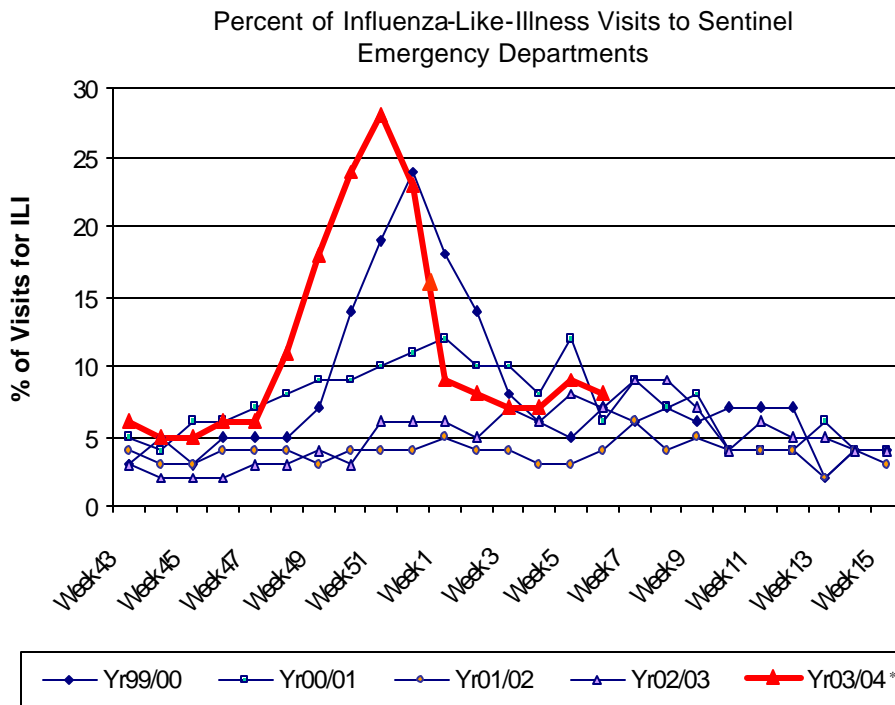
Week 6: February 8-14, 2004

Emergency Department Influenza-like-illness (ILI)
8%

School Absences
Elem. 5% M/HS – 6%

Summary

Influenza activity in San Diego County is at expected levels similar to previous year's levels for this time.



* - For the 2003/2004 series, Week 53 is represented as a midpoint between Week 52 and Week 1

Viral Isolation/Detection

The San Diego County Public Health Laboratory continues to receive reports of positive influenza detections. Selected virus isolates have been sent to the California Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory for antigenic characterization and four specimen's strain-typed result have been identified as the A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2)-like virus.

Physicians and laboratories are encouraged to report positive influenza detections to the Public Health Laboratory by phone (619-692-8500) or fax (619-692-8558).

Statewide and United States Influenza Activity

Statewide – For information please visit: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Fluintro.htm>

United States – For information please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>

The Offices of Community Epidemiology, Immunization, and the Public Health Lab, with the assistance of our surveillance partners throughout San Diego County, are conducting Influenza Surveillance. Information is collected weekly regarding school absences from selected schools, and visits compatible with "flu like illness" reported from 10 emergency departments throughout San Diego County. In addition, sentinel physicians and hospitals are submitting specimens from patients with suspect illness for viral culture. If you would like to participate with us in influenza surveillance efforts, please call us at 619-531-4945.